

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 AEX-00 A-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00
CPR-00 INL-00 DIM-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 DS-00 EUR-00
OIGO-00 H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 M-00
DCP-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 PA-00 PM-00 GIWI-00 PRS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0334RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 004276

FOR SECRETARY RICE FROM AMBASSADOR KOROLOGOS
LJUBLJANA PLEASE PASS A/S FRIED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2015

TAGS: PREL, OVIP (RICE, CONDOLEEZA), BE

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BELGIUM

Classified By: Ambassador Tom C. Korologos. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) SUMMARY:

[REDACTED]

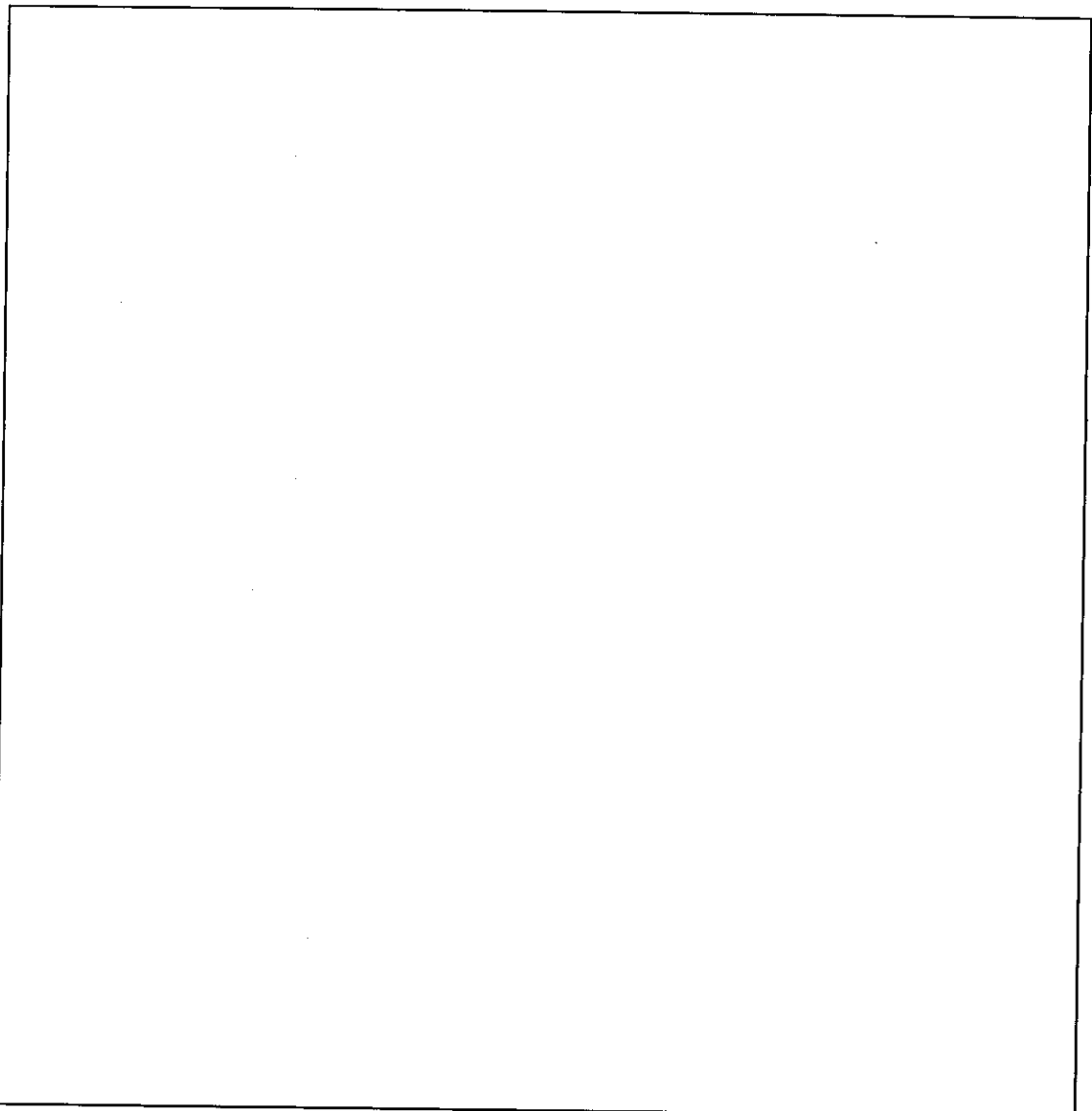
B1

Watch out for
requests on Congo, and increasingly thorny questions about
the alleged CIA flights and secret prisons. END SUMMARY.

Verhofstadt: Pro-transatlantic and pro-Europe.

UNCLASSIFIED

2. (SBU) The Belgians and especially PM Guy Verhofstadt and FM Karel De Gucht remain solidly in the transatlantic camp. Despite unhappiness about Iraq and continuing unwillingness to put troops there, they were one of the first countries to provide debt relief and, with the Germans, are now training Iraqi soldiers in the UAE. We agree on most other transatlantic issues like the Balkans, and have agreed to differ on the others, particularly those on which the Belgians find it politic to follow the French or German lead. We still get positive feedback from President Bush's February visit and from your multiple meetings here and in Washington, reinforced by many senior visits.



6. (C) Other Issues

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--Visit to Washington: If not previously announced, we would welcome your passing the White House invitation, and if appropriate sharing it with the press.

--Terrorism: Bilateral cooperation remains excellent. The Belgians are working now to implement legislative changes similar to some we made with the Patriot Act and the 2004 Intelligence Reform. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--OSCE: Belgium's special envoy for OSCE matters Pierre Chevalier, who was in Washington last week to receive our take on OSCE issues, will be present at the meeting. You

should expect a preview of their Chairmanship and an approach for a meeting with FM De Gucht on OSCE issues early next year, when Belgium will serve as Chairman-in-office.

--NATO: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--Iran: Belgium has been a strong supporter at the IAEA and
[REDACTED]

7. (C) Watch out for:

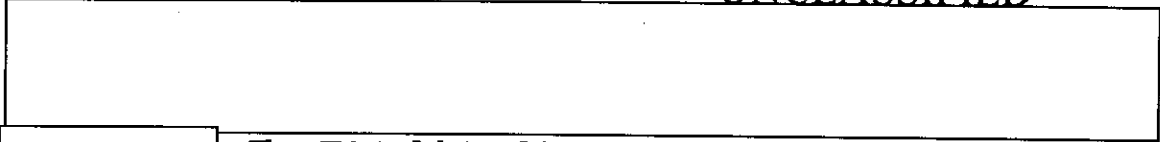
--Congo: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We are working with the Belgians on building up the new military and on security sector reform.

--Prisoners: The alleged CIA flights and secret prisons issue has become increasingly troublesome here. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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The FM told Parliament the issue would surely
come up during Secretary Rice's visit to Europe.
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